

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING SPECIAL AGENT
FREDERICK E. BRAGG

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 2009

Mr. ROGERS of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my appreciation for Special Agent Frederick E. Bragg—a dedicated public servant and an outstanding President of the FBI Agents Association (FBIAA). The FBIAA is over 20 years old and has grown from several hundred agents to a professional association of over 11,300 current and former agents from across the country.

Mr. Bragg's long history of public service began in 1986 with the Onondaga County Sheriff's Department in Syracuse, New York where he worked as a patrol deputy and an investigator. Mr. Bragg joined the FBI in 1991 and has served as the President of the Tri-County Law Enforcement Association, spent a decade as an Assistant Team Leader of the Minneapolis SWAT Team, and has helped lead efforts to combat terrorism, public corruption, and health care fraud. Mr. Bragg's commitment to the mission of the FBIAA began in 1995 and in 2003 he was elected President of the FBIAA. Throughout the duration of his involvement with the FBIAA, Mr. Bragg has advanced the charitable and law enforcement goals of the FBIAA, and his efforts have benefited agents and their families worldwide.

Mr. Bragg has been a leader when it comes to providing for the families of FBI Special Agents who give their lives in the service of our country. Mr. Bragg has helped raise hundreds of thousands of dollars for the FBIAA Memorial Scholarship Fund, which helps provide college scholarships to children of deceased FBI Agents. During Mr. Bragg's time as President, this scholarship fund grew to a level where 80% of a student's college costs are now covered—and because of his efforts it is likely this percentage will continue to increase.

In addition to his charitable work, Mr. Bragg has also been an effective voice for FBI Agents on questions of policy. I have had the opportunity to work personally with Mr. Bragg and have witnessed firsthand his unwavering commitment to our nation's FBI Agents. His advocacy played a key role in many important policy issues, such as debates over whether a domestic intelligence agency should be created, the implementation of new "pay for performance" standards, and the importance of criminal investigations to our nation's security.

As a former FBI Special Agent, I commend Mr. Bragg for his excellent service on behalf of our nation's premier law enforcement agents. His work has earned the thanks and appreciation of this body.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BILL

HON. STEVE SCALISE

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 2009

Mr. SCALISE. Madam Speaker, I support our troops, and that is why I voted for the Defense Authorization bill when it came before the House earlier this year in a straight up-or-down vote. Unfortunately, Speaker PELOSI decided to use our troops as political pawns by allowing the unrelated and ill-conceived "thought crimes" bill to be rammed into the final version of this conference report.

It is a sad day for our country, and a shameful precedent, when the liberals running Congress hold our troops hostage to pass their radical social agenda. It is an insult to our servicemembers who are offended that they are being used as "human shields" in a political war waged by Speaker PELOSI to pass her radical social agenda, and I'm standing up for our troops by opposing this abuse of power. Speaker PELOSI and the liberals running Congress owe our military and their families an apology for playing political games with their mission.

NATIONAL COUNCIL OF ASIAN
AMERICAN BUSINESS ASSOCIATIONS

HON. MICHAEL M. HONDA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 2009

Mr. HONDA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to show my support for the National Council of Asian American Business Associations (NCAABA), and for the important work the NCAABA has done for the Asian American and Pacific Islander business community.

NCAABA was founded in 2000 to be the voice of Asian American business owners at the national level, serving as a conduit of resource and information, to educate the public, private and business sectors, to advance America's economic growth and stability.

Asian Americans, Native Hawaiians, and Other Pacific Islanders (AA NHOPIs) are the fastest growing demographic group in America. In 2002, there were 1.1 million Asian American-owned firms in America, generating \$326 billion in revenues, with the number of Asian American-owned firms growing 24% from 1997, about twice the national average for all businesses. In addition, there were 29,000 Native Hawaiian and Other Pacific Islander (NHOPi)-owned firms, generating \$4.3 billion in revenue, with the number of NHOPi-owned firms growing 49% from 1997, roughly 4 times the average for all businesses. In fact, California, with more than 1/3 million Asian American-owned firms has the largest number of Asian American-owned firms of any state in America.

As America's companies aim to meet the demands of the emerging markets in America, and Asia, AA NHOPIs, who have the cultural and communications skills to create new opportunities, new jobs, and new investments, are in demand.

Given this dramatic growth of AA NHOPi business owners, supplier diversity or the use of minority owned vendors as suppliers, has become a practice that is increasingly important to the success of any business. I want to take this opportunity to commend the National Council of Asian American Business Associations, and presenting sponsor Wells Fargo, in launching the NCAABA Supplier Academy at UCLA on October 14–15, 2009, to ensure that AA NHOPIs will have the cultural and linguistic leadership skills to optimize the resources of the global market, to create sustainable economic change and climate change.

HONORING MR. KEVIN LEE
MITCHEM OF MATHEWS COUNTY,
VIRGINIA

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 2009

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. Kevin Lee Mitchem. Kevin Mitchem was a proud Mathews County resident and a fervent supporter of public education, and he was committed to lending his time and knowledge to youth in the community. Kevin was a devoted husband to his beloved wife, Sara, and a dedicated father to their two children, Rachel and Daniel.

As the owner of Mitchem Seafood, Kevin was a staunch supporter of watermen and the seafood industry. At the time of his passing, Kevin Mitchem was the Chairman of the Mathews County Board of Supervisors and prior to the chairmanship, he served for twelve years as a board member. Additionally, he served on the Middle Peninsula Planning District Commission.

Kevin was deeply involved in his community and dedicated much of his time and effort to serve the residents of Matthews County. He helped coach Mathews County Little League Baseball, Youth Basketball, High School Junior Varsity Girls Basketball, and Junior Varsity Baseball. Mr. Mitchem was a strong supporter of community youth programs and he was instrumental in purchasing and renovating a facility for the senior citizens of Mathews County.

Furthermore, Kevin was a member of the Masonic Lodge, Oriental #20 A.F. & A.M. of Mathews County, the Scottish Rite Temple of Newport News, and the Tidewater Shrine Club. Kevin was also an avid sports fan. He was a lifelong fan of the Baltimore Orioles and Washington Redskins.

Kevin Lee Mitchem will be greatly missed by all who knew him. He touched so many people's lives and the work that he did for his

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

community will never be forgotten. My thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends.

CONGRATULATING WESTON DEWOLFF, SOUTH CAROLINA'S JUNIOR DUCK STAMP DESIGN "BEST OF SHOW" AWARD WINNER

HON. HENRY E. BROWN, JR.

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 2009

Mr. BROWN of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to announce that the Junior Duck Stamp Conservation and Design Program Reauthorization Act of 2009, legislation that I sponsored with Congressmen Solomon Ortiz, has passed out of committee with unanimous consent.

Also, I wanted to congratulate Weston DeWolff, a 15-year-old student at the Charleston County School of the Arts and winner of the Junior Duck Stamp Design Program's "Best of Show" award for the State of South Carolina, for his depiction of a male and female mallard duck.

I congratulate Mr. DeWolff for his achievement and I am proud to support the extension of the Junior Duck Stamp Design program so as to ensure that other students, like him, will have the opportunity to participate in this contest in the future.

Finally, in addition to applauding the unanimous passage of this essential conservation legislation, I want to congratulate Ducks Unlimited, the world's largest and most effective waterfowl conservation organization, for recently receiving a \$1 million North American Wetlands Conservation Act grant.

This money will ensure that Ducks Unlimited is able to continue their mission of protecting waterfowl habitats nationwide and will provide additional funds to protect and enhance over 8,000 acres of diverse wildlife habitat in both Charleston and Georgetown counties in the First District of South Carolina.

HONORING EISENHOWER HIGH SCHOOL

HON. JOE BACA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 2009

Mr. BACA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Eisenhower High School in Rialto, California, on the occasion of its 50th anniversary.

The students and alumni of Eisenhower High School will celebrate 50 years of continued academic excellence, October 17, 2009. This anniversary is a milestone for Rialto, California. Throughout the past 50 years, the school has provided an exemplary educational service to its students and has contributed greatly to the community.

Eisenhower first opened its doors in fall of 1959, and since then has achieved success in academics, athletics and community service while providing a high level of education. They

have always been a school of inclusion and unity regardless of an individual's background.

Eisenhower High School has been able to maintain an outstanding athletic program for their students, allowing them to participate in activities that promote the values of team work, integrity, and dedication. Their athletic teams have consistently won conference titles in varied sports, including football, basketball, wrestling, and swimming. The boy's basketball team currently holds the state championship title. With this victory they became the first California Interscholastic Federation State title holders for a school from San Bernardino County.

Pro Football Hall of Famer, Ronnie Lott graduated from Eisenhower High School; he went on to play for the San Francisco 49ers and was named to the NFL's 75th Anniversary team. Among other Eisenhower High School alumni whom have played on the professional level are Brandi Burton, David Lang, Jeff Conine, Darnell Coles, and Craig Newsome. Another distinguished alumnus is Derek Parra, Olympic Speed-Skating gold medalist and 1500 meter world record holder.

Eisenhower High School has also achieved recognition in academics and community service. They have achieved recognition on the state level as well as national recognition. Anita Ware, alumna of Eisenhower, was its first student to be awarded the prestigious Westinghouse Science Award. The school newspaper, the Eagle's Eye, received an award in 1976 for being one of the nation's best student newspapers from the National Scholastic Press Association and Quill & Scroll. Eisenhower High School was also recognized as a National Blue Ribbon and as a California Distinguished School.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in honoring Eisenhower High School. Their continuing record of accomplishment is due in no small part to the teaching practices of the faculty who have guided the school through the years.

HATE CRIMES PROVISION IN THE NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 2009

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, our nation's founding principles guarantee individual freedom and liberty. We risk these rights when hateful discrimination and violence are allowed to flourish. Hate crimes prevention legislation gives law enforcement the tools they need to protect our liberties and ensure that no American is assaulted because of who they are.

We have existing federal hate crimes laws to assist local law enforcement in cases of violent crimes motivated by a victim's race, color, religion, or national origin. With this legislation, we expand protections to gender, sexual orientation, gender identity, and disability.

Hate crimes devastate individuals and families and terrorize communities. By giving law enforcement resources to combat and prosecute the thousands of hate crimes that occur

in our country each year, we continue to defend those freedoms that define America's character.

IN HONOR OF LTG ROBERT ORD

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 13, 2009

Mr. FARR. Madam Speaker, I rise to commend a distinguished career of public service. On February 1, LTG Robert Ord will be retiring as the Dean of the School of International Graduate Studies at the Naval Postgraduate School.

After 34 illustrious years in the U.S. Army, culminating as the commanding general of the U.S. Army Pacific, Bob Ord joined the faculty at the Naval Postgraduate School, bringing his wealth of military experience and relationships from the halls of the Pentagon to one of the most significant graduate military education programs in the Nation. The School of International Graduate Studies addresses current and emerging global security challenges by providing U.S. military and international students with a graduate education in foreign policy, international relations and security cooperation.

Having been a former Peace Corps volunteer in Colombia from 1964–66, I have a deep appreciation for the programs in the SIGS department that focus on the need for capacity building. Two programs of special interest to me are the Leader Development and Education for Sustained Peace and the Center for Stabilization and Reconstruction Studies. Both of these programs address a gap I identified while serving in the Peace Corps—the need to have greater cross-cultural awareness in our security building programs; and, the importance of bringing stabilization and reconstruction stakeholders together in the classroom before they work together in an operational environment. Along with the Center for Homeland Defense and Security, the only Department of Homeland Security-sponsored master's degree program, SIGS is at the cutting edge of 21st century security and homeland defense challenges.

Since February 1, 2008, General Ord has served as the first Director of the Global Center for Security Cooperation, located at the Naval Postgraduate School. The Center ensures the Secretary of Defense is knowledgeable about all the Department of Defense international education providers. Supporting the 2006 Quadrennial Defense Review and the Defense Security Cooperation Guidance, the Global Center coordinates, integrates and deconflicts international education providers' activities and programs. In his capacity as the first Director, Bob Ord's dynamic leadership and breadth of experience has enabled him to stand up a highly resilient organization that can quickly respond to OSD priorities for global international education. The success of the Global Center for Security Cooperation is a lasting tribute to LTG Robert Ord.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to call Bob Ord a friend and I wish him well in the next chapter of his storied life.